



SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

CHORAL EVENSONG
WITH SERMON IN MUSIC

11TH FEBRUARY 2024, 5:30^{PM}

**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**

Hymn

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.**

**O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.**

**O generous love! that he, who smote
in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo;**

**And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.**

Tune: Gerontius by J B Dykes 1823-76
Words: J H Newman 1801-90

Welcome

Minister Beloved, we are come together
in the presence of Almighty God
and of the whole company of heaven
to offer unto him, through our Lord Jesus Christ,
our worship and praise and thanksgiving;
to make confession of our sins,
to pray as well for others as for ourselves,
that we may know more truly
the greatness of God's love
and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace;
and to ask on behalf of all men
such things as their well being doth require.
Wherefore let us kneel now
and humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Confession

All **Almighty and most merciful Father,**
we have erred, and strayed from thy ways
like lost sheep,
we have followed too much
the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things
which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things
which we ought not to have done,
and there is no health in us:
but thou, O Lord,
have mercy upon us miserable offenders;
spare thou them, O God,
which confess their faults,
restore thou them that are penitent,
according to thy promises
declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesu our Lord:

**and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly,
righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy name.
Amen.**

The Minister delivers the Absolution

May the Almighty and merciful Lord
grant unto you pardon
and remission of all your sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Preces

John Sanders

Minister O Lord, open thou our lips,
Choir *and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

Minister O God, make speed to save us,
Choir *O Lord, make haste to help us.*

Minister Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
 and to the Holy Ghost;
Choir *as it was in the beginning, is now,
 and ever shall be,
 world without end. Amen.*

Minister Praise ye the Lord.
Choir *The Lord's name be praised.*

Psalm 2

*1 Why do the heathen so furiously rage together :
and why do the people imagine a vain thing?*

*2 The kings of the earth stand up, and the rulers
take counsel together :
against the Lord, and against his Anointed.*

*3 Let us break their bonds asunder :
and cast away their cords from us.*

*4 He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn :
the Lord shall have them in derision.*

*5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath :
and vex them in his sore displeasure.*

*6 Yet have I set my King :
upon my holy hill of Sion.*

*7 I will preach the law, whereof the Lord hath said unto me :
Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.*

*8 Desire of me, and I shall give thee the heathen
for thine inheritance:
and the utmost parts of the earth for thy possession.*

*9 Thou shalt bruise them with a rod of iron :
and break them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*

*10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings :
be learned, ye that are judges of the earth.*

*11 Serve the Lord in fear :
and rejoice unto him with reverence.*

*12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and so ye perish
from the right way :
if his wrath be kindled, (yea, but a little,)
blessed are all they that put their trust in him.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.*

Chant: Henry Ley 1887-1962

Please sit

Old Testament Lesson

1 Kings 19: 1-16

read by Graham Hill

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.

And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord

God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

And the Lord said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Magnifi cat

Evening Service in D – Herbert Kennedy Andrews

Choir *My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.*

*For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away
He remembering his mercy hath
holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed, for ever.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.
Amen.*

New Testament Lesson

2 Peter 1: 16-end

read by Madeleine Kearns

We have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

All This is the word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in D – Herbert Kennedy Andrews

Choir *Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
 according to thy word.
 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;
 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
 and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.*

Please remain standing

Apostles' Creed

All **I believe in God the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth:
 and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, dead, and buried:
 He descended into hell;
 the third day he rose again from the dead;
 He ascended into heaven,
 and sitteth on the right hand
 of God the Father Almighty;
 from thence he shall come
 to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy Catholic Church;
the Communion of Saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the Resurrection of the body,
and the Life everlasting. Amen.**

Responses

John Sanders

Minister The Lord be with you,
Choir *and with thy spirit.*

Minister Let us pray.

Choir *Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.*

Minister O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us,
Choir *and grant us thy salvation.*

Minister O Lord, save the King,
Choir *and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.*

Minister Endue thy Ministers with righteousness,
Choir *and make thy chosen people joyful.*

Minister O Lord, save thy people,
Choir *and bless thine inheritance.*

Minister Give peace in our time, O Lord,
Choir *because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.*

Minister O God, make clean our hearts within us,
Choir *and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

Collects

The first, for the day

Minister *Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness,
from glory to glory;
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*
Choir *Amen.*

The second, for Peace

Minister O God, from whom all holy desires,
all good counsels, and all just works do proceed:
Give unto thy servants that peace
which the world cannot give;
that both our hearts may be set
to obey thy commandments,
and also that by thee we being defended
from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Choir *Amen.*

The third, for Aid against all Perils

Minister Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
 and by thy great mercy defend us
 from all perils and dangers of this night;
 for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Choir *Amen.*

Sermon in Music

i) I gaze upon you – Gabriel Jackson

ii) Blessed be the God and Father – Samuel Sebastian Wesley

(please see notes on page 14)

Prayers of Intercession

The Revd Dr Jeff Lake, *Associate Priest of St Bride's*

This response may be used

All Lord, in thy mercy,
 hear our prayer.

All Merciful Father,
 accept these prayers
 for the sake of thy Son,
 our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Notices

Hymn

**Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
take my heart: it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.**

Tune: St Bees , J B Dykes 1823-76
Words: F Ridley Havergal 1836-79

Blessing

Minister The peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you and remain with you always.

Choir *Amen.*

Organ Voluntary

Carillon – Herbert Murrill

Sermon in Music

i) *I gaze upon you* – Gabriel Jackson

ii) *Blessed be the God and Father* – Samuel Sebastian Wesley

The Sunday immediately before Lent is generally known as Quinquagesima, and it is traditionally associated with the theme of love, partly because the set Epistle for the day is St Paul's great ode to love from the 13th chapter of Corinthians 1, but also because it is often, as this year, the closest Sunday to St Valentine's Day. The contemporary British composer, Gabriel Jackson, who was born in 1962 and received his early musical training as a chorister of Canterbury Cathedral, composed this setting of a poem by Paul Eluard for an anthology of wedding music and its sumptuous harmonies and gentle mood have made it a contemporary classic.

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, grandson of Charles Wesley, the hymn writer, and great nephew of John Wesley, took up his first cathedral appointment at the age of only 22, in 1832, when he became organist of Hereford Cathedral. The state of cathedral music in the early 19th century was such that the entire tradition was in danger of dying out and Wesley was one of the principal figures to ensure its survival. *Blessed be the God and Father* was written for Wesley's first Easter Day at Hereford, when the choir consisted of boys and one solitary bass voice (legend has it that this was the Dean's butler!). The text comes from the first Epistle of Peter and the anthem divides into several contrasting sections, of which the central passage "Love one another with a pure heart fervently" for treble voices is often performed separately. Wesley was surprised by the anthem's popularity and was inclined to disparage it, but later in his life he was persuaded to revise it for publication, rewriting the opening and closing sections for full choir, since when it has remained constantly in the repertoire of church and cathedral choirs.

I gaze upon you

*I gaze upon you and the sun grows large,
soon it will overwhelm our day,
awake with heart and colour in your head
to chase away the night's bad dreams.*

*Awake that I may follow where you go,
I have a body that waits to follow you
from the gates of day to the gates of dusk,
a body to spend with you a life of love.*

Blessed be the God and Father

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again
unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

*To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled,
that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation
ready to be revealed in the last time.*

*But as he which hath called you is holy,
so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.
Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.
See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.*

*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible,
by the word of God.
For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass.
The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:
But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. Amen.*